

UNITED STATES HISTORY

SECTION II

Part A

(Suggested writing time—45 minutes)

Percent of Section II score—45

Directions: The following question requires you to construct a coherent essay that integrates your interpretation of Documents A-H and your knowledge of the period referred to in the question. High scores will be earned only by essays that both cite key pieces of evidence from the documents and draw on outside knowledge of the period.

1. **Analyze developments from 1941 to 1949 that increased suspicion and tension between the United States and the Soviet Union.**

Use the documents and your knowledge of the period 1941-1949 to construct your response.

Document A

Source: Senator Harry S Truman to a newspaper reporter, June 1941

If we see that Germany is winning, we ought to help Russia and if Russia is winning we ought to help Germany and that way let them kill as many as possible.

Document B

Source: The United States ambassador to the Soviet Union to Secretary of State Cordell Hull, August 10, 1943

The absence of a second front prepares the ground for a strong Soviet stand in the field of foreign policy. To the extent that people [around the world] believe that the Soviet Union carried the major burden of winning the war and that the United States and Great Britain withheld assistance which they could have given, [people] will be more inclined to support a claim that the Soviet Union should have the greatest voice in determining the peace.

Document C

Source: Joseph Stalin, February 6, 1945

Prime Minister [Churchill] has said that for Great Britain the question of Poland is a question of honor. For Russia it is not only a question of honor but of security. . . . During the last 30 years, our German enemy has passed through this corridor twice.

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Document D

Source: George Kennan, State Department official, September 1946

I don't think that we can influence them [the Soviets] by reasoning with them, by arguing with them, by going to them and saying, "Look here, this is the way things are." I don't believe that is possible. . . . If we can keep them maneuvered into a position where it is always hard and unprofitable for them to take action contrary to the principles of the United Nations and to our policies and where there is always an open door and an easy road to collaboration . . . I personally am quite convinced that . . . sooner or later the logic of it will penetrate their government and will force changes there.

Document E

Source: V. M. Molotov, Soviet foreign minister, "The Task of Our Time: Unite Against the Enslavement of the People," broadcast to the Russian people, November 6, 1947

Today the ruling circles of the United States and Great Britain head one international grouping which has as its aim the consolidation of capitalism and the achievement of the domination of these countries over other peoples. . . . Take, for example, the German question. If in the postwar period America and Britain had adhered to all the principles—let us say, for example, the democratic principles—of the Yalta and Potsdam conferences on the German question, which made possible and fruitful the collaboration of the great allies against Hitlerite Germany, with the aim of liquidating the remnants of fascism, then collaboration between the Soviet Union, the United States, and Britain would also today produce good results. But the United States and Britain have departed from these democratic principles and have violated the decisions jointly taken.

Document F

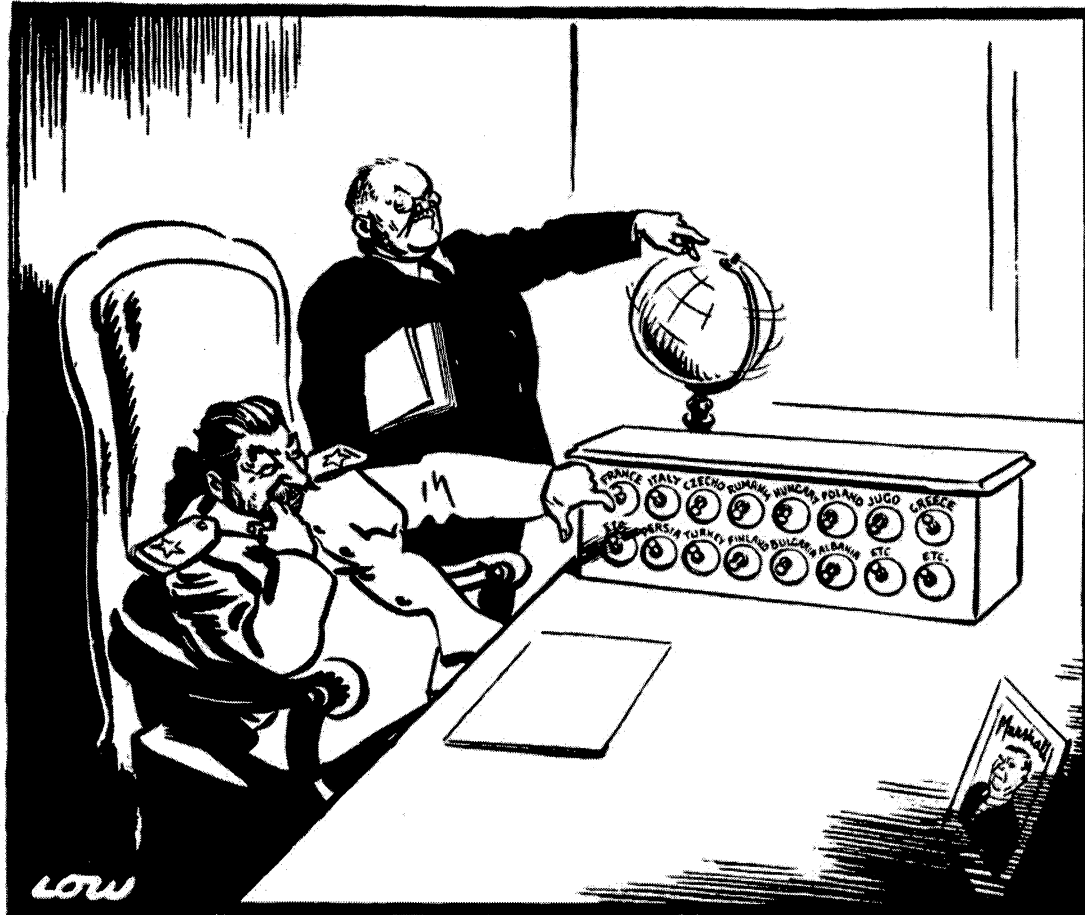
Source: *The New York Times*, February 25, 1948

PRAGUE, Wednesday, Feb. 25—The "action committees" of Communist Premier Klement Gottwald were taking over authority in the capital and throughout Czechoslovakia yesterday in what looked like a revolution. The country was rapidly being turned into a "People's Front" nation of the typical Eastern European variety.

Ministries of the Government were brought under control of the Communists, the army was told to "remain true to the Soviet Union," the free press was being suppressed and the Gottwald forces apparently gained the support they needed to form a majority regime.

Document G

Source: David Low cartoon in the London *Evening Standard*, March 1948



"WHO'S NEXT TO BE LIBERATED FROM FREEDOM, COMRADE?"

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Document H

Source: Gallup Polls conducted in the United States

August 1945

Do you think Russia can be trusted to cooperate with us after the war?

Yes	54%
No	30
No opinion	16

March 1946

Do you think Russia will cooperate with us in world affairs?

Yes	35%
No	52
No opinion	13

July 1946

As you hear and read about Russia these days, do you believe Russia is trying to build herself up to be the ruling power of the world, or is Russia just building up protection against being attacked in another war?

Ruling power	60%
Protection	26
No opinion	14

May 1948

Do you think the United States is too soft or too tough . . . in its policy toward Russia?

Too soft	69%
Too tough	6
About right	14
No opinion	11

END OF DOCUMENTS FOR QUESTION 1

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